

History
of the
St. Thomas Parish
1803 - 1921



Compiled by
Monsignor West
1921

History of St.Thomas Parish

1803 - 1921

THE first settlers in this part of Canada came with Colonel Talbot in the year 1803. This country at that time was a dense forest with abundance of wild game. A few trails marked the Indian's ordinary course through this lonely wilderness. On May 21, 1803, Colonel Talbot, with a commission from the British Government for the colonization of this western district of Ontario, arrived at the mouth of a little creek running into Lake Erie and situated twelve or fourteen miles west of St. Thomas. Here Colonel Talbot cut down the first tree in the Talbot settlement, made his home, and called the place Port Talbot. Among the early settlers were a few Catholic families. In June, 1818, John and James Brady and their wives, from the town of Navan, County Meath, Ireland, after three months in a sailing vessel, arrived at Port Talbot. Before reaching here John Brady met Colonel Talbot, with whom he had been acquainted in Ireland, at Little York, now Toronto. Colonel Talbot rode all the way from Port Talbot to Toronto on horseback. When shown Colonel Talbot's home at the port one of the Bradys said: "Is it possible that Colonel Talbot lives in that shack!"

The Bradys were seven years in Canada before they saw a priest. Through Colonel Talbot's efforts a priest was secured. Mass was said in James Brady's log house, situated less than a mile east of Fingal on lot number twenty-one, Talbot Road, Township of Southwold, in the year 1825. [This date is given by Philip Brady and his sister Sarah, James Brady's grandchildren.] James Brady, his wife and his two sons, Terrence and Thomas, John Brady and his wife, Timothy Near and Thomas McLaughlin were present at this mass. Philip Brady, James Brady's grandson, is living on the old



Rt. REV. BISHOP McDONNELL, celebrated the first mass in St. Thomas,
July, 1827.

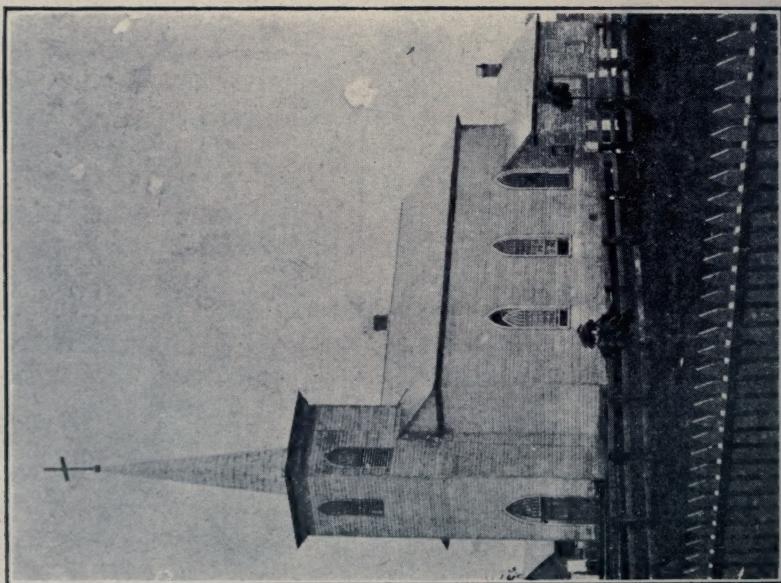
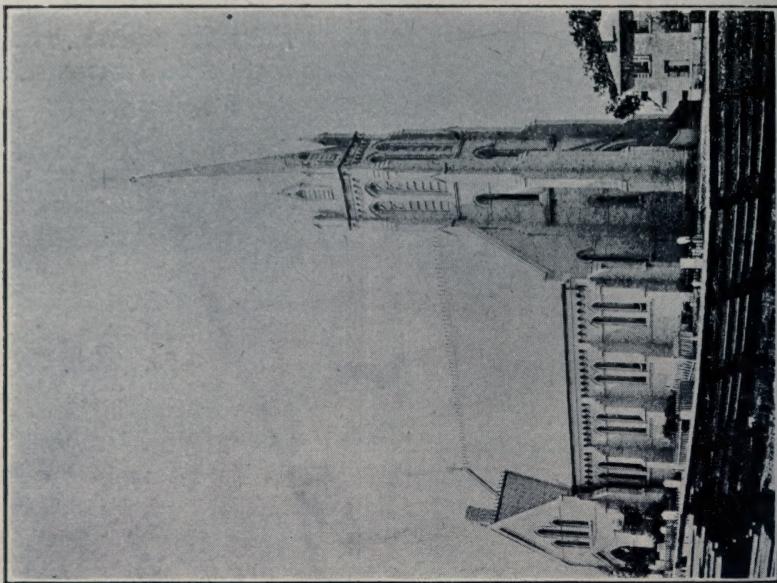
homestead. After remaining in this vicinity for several years, John Brady took up land a short distance north of St. Thomas. He had a grand daughter who was a Madame Brady of the Community of the Sacred Heart.

In the year 1816 Archibald McNeal bought a 200-acre farm on the Talbot Road east of St. Thomas. This village was incorporated in the year 1817 and named St. Thomas after Colonel Talbot, whose given name was Thomas.

FIRST CLERGYMAN TO CELEBRATE MASS.

Colonel Talbot invited Bishop McDonnell to St. Thomas and entertained him at his home at Port Talbot.

The founder of the English-speaking congregations in Ontario was a man of rare power physically and mentally. His life is a part of the history of the Dominion, and for that reason a synopsis of it is given here: Bishop Alexander McDonnell was born in Glengarry, Scotland, in 1760. In his youth it was a penal offense to attend a Catholic school, even as it was to preside over or support one, so that his classical education had to be obtained at Valladolid, Spain. In 1790 he returned to his native country with the order of priesthood, and went to work to re-establish the proscribed religion among his people in the northern parish of Badenock, and in the city of Glasgow. That the law and narrow bigotry of those days countenanced this action is the greatest testimonial to his zeal and accomplishments. This Scottish priest joined Lord McDonnell's regiment of Glengary Fencibles. Through his influence this Catholic regiment was recruited in Scotland, and the second Glengary regiment was raised in Canada to help repel the American invasion of 1812. Bishop McDonnell came to Canada as a priest in 1804, was consecrated Bishop of Kingston in 1822, and died in Dumfrieshire, Scotland, in 1840. His body laid in St. Mary's Church, Edinburgh, until 1862, when it was brought to Kingston, where it rests in the Cathedral. In 1804 there were only two priests in Ontario. The Bishop at one time travelled throughout Ontario visiting his co-religionists, among whom were many U. E. Loyalists.—*History of Middlesex County*, p. 45.



First Catholic Church in St. Thomas, erected 1830.

Holy Angels' Church, erected 1871. The house adjoining it was built by Father Ryan.

The first clergyman known to have celebrated mass in St. Thomas was the Rt. Rev. Alexander McDonnell, Bishop of Kingston, in July, 1827. The Diocese of Kingston at that time embraced all the present Diocese of Kingston and all of Upper Canada extending as far west as the lakes Huron, St. Clair, and Erie. The Rev. Jas. W. Campion was appointed Pastor of Dundas in the year 1827 with jurisdiction extending as far west as St. Thomas and as far north as Goderich. He visited St. Thomas and London twice a year. In 1829 he said mass four times a year. Toward the end of the same year he was succeeded by the Rev. John Cullen, who also said mass four times a year, till September, 1831.

In the year 1824 Archibald McNeal's nearest neighbor on the west gave a site for a Church of England in the village of St. Thomas. This church, a frame building, is still standing, but not used by the congregation. Archibald McNeal, it is said, not to be outdone by his Protestant neighbor, in the year 1830 gave the Bishop of Kingston three acres of his 200-acre farm for Catholic Church purposes and for the use of Catholics residing in that locality. Here is an abbreviated record of the deed as found in the Elgin County Registry Office: "May 31, 1831, Archibald McNeal to Rt. Rev. Alexander McDonnell, Bishop of Regiopolis; Rev. John Cullen, Missionary Apostolic of Yarmouth; James Baby, Richard Fitzgerald, and Hugh O'Beirne, church wardens." The record also shows that five shillings were given for the three acres. Father Cullen took up a collection for a new church. The frame structure erected in August, 1830, cost £85. The remaining cost of the building was £89. The first mass in this church was said by the Rev. Father Dempsey on Christmas Day, 1831. The Protestants of St. Thomas, Yarmouth and Southwold subscribed liberally for the building of this church. It was called the Apostolic Church of St. Thomas.

The Glebe House was erected in the autumn of 1833. The frame cost £15. The Rev. Father Dempsey, who was appointed to St. Thomas in September, 1831, remained during the year 1832 and a part of 1833. The Rev. Daniel Downie, M. A. P., was stationed

in St. Thomas in October, 1833. Up to this time the priests who attended St. Thomas had charge also of London, Goderich and Adelaide, from the year 1831. In the year 1834 Father Downie spent £11. 4s. 4d. on improvements in connection with the cemetery, which occupied the ground adjacent to and east of the church. He bought vestments and all articles necessary for the celebration of the mass. He also bought the first book or register for marriages and baptisms. It contains many important items of the early history of the Church in St. Thomas and is yet in a good state of preservation.

At a meeting of the members of the church Sunday, Oct. 2, 1836, for the purpose of the election of church wardens, the record of the meeting shows that the church was then called St. George's Church of St. Thomas. The Rev. J. M. Burke, M. A. P., who was appointed to St. Thomas the latter part of 1836, attended this meeting. On Saturday, Oct. 1, 1836, at a meeting of the congregation over sixty members signed the following document:

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed do bind ourselves to pay annually in quarterly payments the several sums set opposite our names to the Rev. J. M. Burke, Missionary Apostolic, being our stipend as his support, as witness our hand in the Church of St. George in the London District this first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six."

The first signature is Hugh O'Bierne, £4. The total subscription was £50. 16s. 3d. The other names are:

JOHN WESTLAKE	ARTHUR LYONS	JOHN CALLAHAN
LUKE SWEETMAN	JAMES BRIODY	THOS. McLACHLIN Jr.
THOMAS MOORE	THOMAS BRIODY	DENNIS REGAN
MICHAEL HAMPTON	THOMAS BRADY	AND FAMILY
JOHN ST. EATHEN	PATRICK BRENNAN	LAWRENCE EARLY
JOHN LEE	PATRICK KILDAY	PHILIP WATERS
LAWRENCE DOYLE	ANNE QUNAN	PATRICK BOBIER
DENNIS KAVANA	Mrs. ST. ETIENNE	PATRICK DUNN
AND FAMILY	TERRENCE BRIODY	THOMAS MCGILL
N. PLUMB	THOMAS McCARTHY	BARTHOLOMEW DOYLE
PATRICK KELLY	PETER HAMPTON	WILLIAM KIRBY

JAMES FINLAN	DANIEL COUGHLIN	DENNIS REGAN
PATRICK BURNS	MR. DUNN	CORNELIUS REGAN Jr.
MICHAEL MURPHY	ELLISE GIBBONS	PATRICK REGAN
PATRICK KELLEAN	ANDREW WICKETT	MR. SMITH
PATRICK BRIODY	THOMAS KENNY	PATRICK FINLAN
EDWARD DURKIN	JAMES FITZSYMONS	WILLIAM CASEY
PATRICK MULVANNY	MAURICE KIRBY	CHAS. CALHOUNE
JAMES COLEMAN	ROBT. FRAYMY	THOMAS McCORMACK
WILLIAM CRANE	MR. CALLOON	
JAMES BRADY	JOHN DOWLING	

On the same day a subscription was taken up to purchase a horse for the use of the priest in the mission. The total amount subscribed was £13. 6s. 11d. The following were the subscribers:

JOHN MCNEAL	PATRICK BURNS	MR. CALLOON
DENNIS KAVANA	MAY KAVANNA	PHILIP WAKUT
L. DOYLE	MRS. MCNEAL	PETER FINLAN
LUKE SWEETMAN	ELIZA KAVANNA	JOHN DOWLIN
JOHN WESTLAKE	CATHERINE O'HARA	MRS. BRIODY
PATRICK KELLY	THOMAS MCGILL	JOHN CAHALAND
EDWARD DURKIN	BIDDY FINLAN	THOMAS McLACHLIN
MICHAEL MURPHY	JOHN ST. EATHEN	MAURICE REILLY
JAMES BRIODY	THOMAS BRADY	LAWRENCE EARLY
ARCHIBALD MCNEIL	THOMAS McCARTHY	DANIEL CAHALAND
HUGH O'BEIRNE	MRS. NEAL	PAT. BOBIER
.... CRANE	MR. DUNN	DANIEL CAHALAND Jr.
PATRICK WELDON	ELISSE GIBBONS	PATRICK DUNN
THOMAS FALLON	THOMAS KENNY	DENNIS REGAN
PATRICK BRADY	JAMES FITZSYMONS	MR. DULA
PETER CABALLY	ROBERT FRAYMY	

The following are the names of some of the Irish Catholics who in the 'thirties and early 'forties of the last century went into the dense forest north of St. Thomas and south of Glanworth and hewed out homes for themselves and their families: six families of the Regans, three of the Coughlins, Denis Donahue, Patrick Sweeney, David



Rt. REV. ADOLPHE PINSONNEAULT, D.D.

McCarthy, Timothy Crowley, Peter Riordan, James Harrington, and James McCracken. Religious and political persecution drove them from their native land. Denis Regan with his family took up land near Glanworth, Westminster, in 1832.

About the year 1845 a separate school house was built south of Glanworth on lot fifteen, ninth concession, in the Township of Westminster. It was a log building, but within its walls the youth of that part of the country received a good practical education. The children of the seventeen or eighteen Catholic families living in that locality attended it. This is said to be the first separate school established in Ontario. These are some of the teachers who taught in that schoolhouse: John O'Connell, James Cunningham, Miss Hughes, Donnet Crowe, and Kearney. Miss Hannah Coughlin was the last teacher in that school.

In 1876 a separate school, a frame building, was erected on the seventh concession of Westminster, the concession which divided the St. Thomas and London parishes. The first trustees of this school were William Johnston, John Bruce and Cornelius Regan. The first teacher was Ellen Coughlin and the last teacher was Ada Kindree. The school was closed in 1907 for want of pupils. On the same site, up to 1876, a private house had been used as a separate school for seven or eight years. The first teacher was John Butler, a cousin of John Butler of St. Thomas.

In the early days the *Toronto Mirror*, published by Charles Dunlevy and subscribed by Bartholomew Coughlin, was the first Catholic paper to enter this settlement.

J. C. Coughlin, one of the pioneer settlers, was the first man to ship a consignment of Canadian cattle, by way of Montreal, to the English markets.

The name Glanworth came about in this way: The Catholics there, with their non-Catholic neighbors, petitioned for a post-office. The Scotch settlers wished the name to be Kelvin Grove, but the Irishmen felt that they, the first settlers, had the prior right to suggest the name, and the Irish name Glanworth was then given by Cornelius Coughlin.

The Rev. Father Burke resigned the St. Thomas mission the first Sunday of October, 1838, and was transferred to the Mission of St. Catharines, Niagara District. On the day that his predecessor, the Rev. Father Burke left St. Thomas, the Rev. Michael Robert Mills took possession of the London and St. Thomas charge and remained till the following June.

The Rev. James O'Flynn succeeded the Rev. Michael Robert Mills June 6, 1839. He also attended London and St. Thomas. John Butler, who owned a farm on the sixth concession of Yarmouth about a mile south of the town, married Father O'Flynn's sister. Mr. Butler was a grand uncle of the Butler family, John E. J., Joseph and C. S. Butler, now living in the city. Father O'Flynn was transferred to Dundas in the month of March, 1842. The Rev. P. O'Dwyer, who was then residing in London, succeeded him and attended St. Thomas until June, 1843, when the Rev. Michael Robert Mills was appointed pastor by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Power, Bishop of Toronto, Dec. 22, 1844. He attended London and St. Thomas alternately. In the year 1848 he retired to a monastery. The Rev. T. Kirwin, who was appointed to London instead of the Rev. P. O'Dwyer, who was sent to Brantford, visited St. Thomas until September, 1850. The Rev. T. Ryan was then appointed parish priest of St. Thomas, and from that date London and St. Thomas became distinct parishes. Father Ryan made several improvements in the parish, including a brick building for the parochial residence. It was in use for fifty years, till it was replaced by the present rectory in 1906.

In 1852 mass was celebrated in Port Stanley in the vigus old home-stead; later in the house formerly occupied by Colonel Bostwick. Colonel Bostwick was the first settler in Port Stanley. His house, together with the business part of the village, was destroyed by fire in 1854. Two years after this, October 26, the London and Port Stanley Railway was officially opened for traffic. In 1860 the Sons of Temperance Hall, a frame building situated in the main street at the entrance to the village of Port Stanley, was bought by the Catholics and used as their church until it was replaced in 1912 by the present brick church on George street.

On Nov. 1, 1857, Father Ryan was transferred to Ingersoll and was succeeded by the Rev. C. Frachon. During Father Frachon's pastorate in St. Thomas a separate school examination was held, a report of which appeared in the *St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch*. It took place May 23, 1859. Father Frachon and the trustees were present and were much pleased with the result of the examination. The subjects were spelling, reading, dictation, grammar, arithmetic, geography, and the principles of Christian doctrine.

A school picnic was held the following day, the Queen's birthday, in Mr. Locke's beautiful grove and grounds overlooking Kettle Creek. Nothing was left undone by Father Frachon and the school trustees, among whom were, Patrick Burke, editor of *The Dispatch*, (father of George P. Burke) and Thomas Moore, father of Frank J. Moore, whose pictures are shown herewith, to make the occasion a most pleasant one for the children and every one present. Upwards of 250 took part in the picnic. There were speeches, singing, dancing and athletic games. The inward man was not uncared for. The



THOMAS MOORE PATRICK BURKE
Trustees, 1857

ladies had prepared an excellent dinner.

When the separate school was established in St. Thomas neither the church nor the school records show. Previous to this separate school picnic it had no doubt been some time in existence. [This is the first school building.]

In September, 1859, the Rev. Louis Bissey took charge of St.



Holy Angels' Separate School.

Thomas and remained until Aug. 20, 1861. For a short time the Rev. Joseph Gerard assisted him. Father Bissey was sent to Irish-town, now St. Columban, to take charge of that parish. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. A. Strain, who remained a month and was succeeded by the Rev. Chas. Zucker, who was appointed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Pinsonneault, and took possession on Sept. 14, 1861. He had been a cavalry officer in the German army. He wore a long beard and was as stern as he looked. He was very strict, but a good priest. Near West Lorne is a German church St. Henry's, erected in 1866. It is still in use. Father Zucker resigned Sept. 28, 1870, and was received into the Diocese of Albany, N. Y. The Rev. William Flannery, parish priest of Amherstburg, was appointed pastor of St. Thomas by the Rt. Rev. John Walsh of London.



REV. DR. FLANNERY
1870-1898

ADVENT OF REV. FATHER
FLANNERY.

The Rev. Father Flannery arrived in St. Thomas, Saturday, Oct. 1, and on Sunday, the following day, Oct. 2, 1870, at the parochial mass preached his first sermon as parish priest.

In his opening remarks he said:

"At my first appearance today you may not be favorably impressed with me, but the longer you know me the better you will like me."

During Father Flannery's long pastorate, twenty-eight years, he was beloved by Catholics and Protestants alike. When he came to St. Thomas there was the old frame church, 40 by 24 feet, which was built in August, 1830. It stood in the centre of the cemetery and faced Talbot street.



Rt. Rev. JOHN WALSH, D.D.

The population of St. Thomas was then about 1900. The Catholic population consisted of sixty families in the town and 100 families in the neighboring townships of Yarmouth, Southwold, Dunwich, Malahide, South Dorchester, and the seventh, eighth and ninth concessions of Westminster.

[The population of St. Thomas in 1920 was 17,850. The Catholic population was 1,560.]



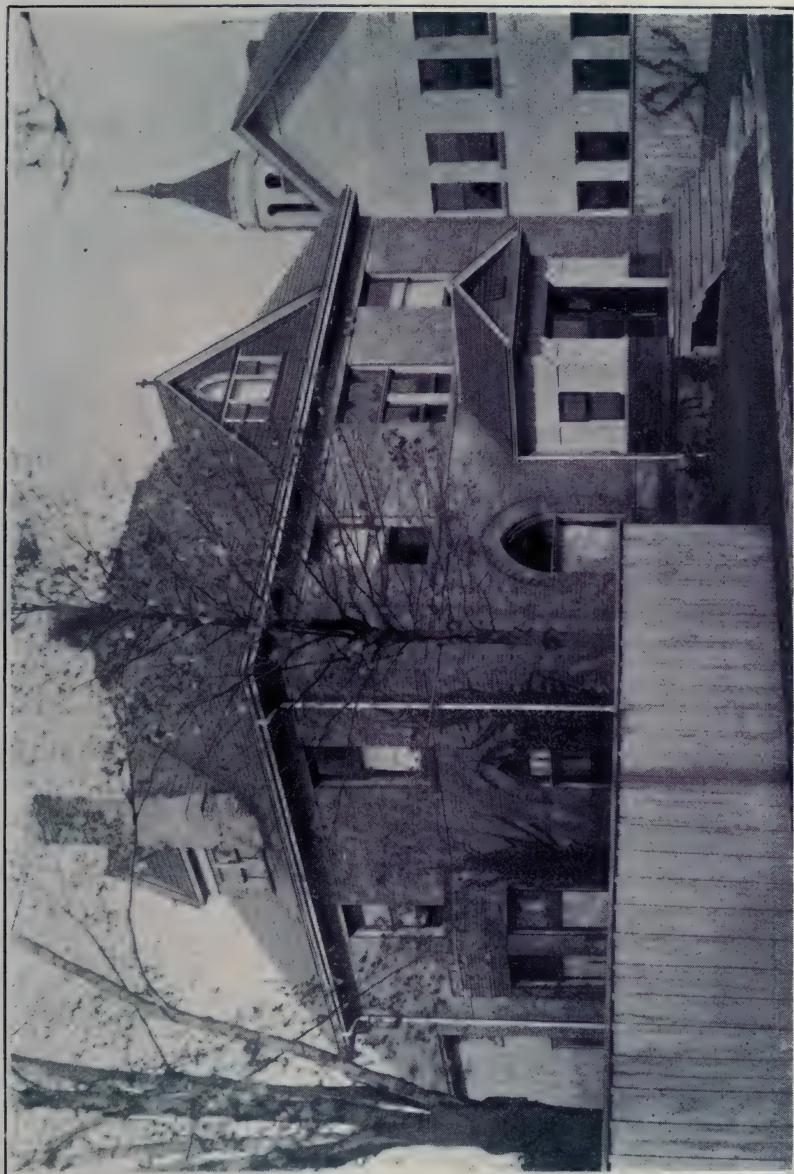
The first Separate School building in St. Thomas, now on Talbot Street.

In St. Thomas at Father Flannery's arrival there was no separate school. The separate school that had been in use was sold. It is now a private residence on Talbot street. This was the first separate school house erected in St. Thomas.

Mass was said every third Sunday, on Holy days and occasionally on Sundays at Dunwich. In 1870 the town of St. Thomas was west of the Catholic Church, and the London and Pt. Stanley, the town's only railway, was to the east of the church, now the church



Holy Angels' Cemetery.



St. Joseph Convent



Rt. REV. DENIS O'CONNOR, D.D.

stands in the centre of the city. A part of the church property south of the church was sold to the Canada Southern R. R. The work of building this road began in 1871.

At a meeting held on the Sunday following Father Flannery's arrival in St. Thomas it was decided by a majority of those present to erect a brick church. The following year, July 2, 1871, the Rt. Rev. John Walsh, Bishop of London, laid and blessed the cornerstone. The Rev. Dr. Kilroy delivered the sermon. The collection totalled \$154. The church was opened and blessed by the Bishop of London on Nov. 10, 1872. The Bishop preached on the sacrifice of mass. The collection was \$320. The total cost of the church was \$14,400. The church was placed under the protection of the angels and called Holy Angels Church. In January, 1874, a bazaar was held and \$800 was realized. In May of the same year ten acres of land were purchased from Samuel Day for a cemetery at a cost of \$2,300. The cemetery was blessed Sunday, June 14, 1874. Bishop Walsh preached in the cemetery on that occasion. On Oct. 1, 1876, the Rev. P. Fitzpatrick was appointed curate. The Easter and Christmas collection for that year was \$482.20. Father Fitzpatrick left this parish July 25, 1877, and after remaining a year in Montreal with Father Turpin, retired to a monastery in Iowa and died of consumption in 1881. The Rev. Father Northgraves was appointed curate Aug. 1, 1877, and was succeeded Dec. 1, 1877, by Father Birkery. On June 20, 1878, Father Nicholas Gahan was appointed curate to succeed Father Birkery, who returned to Buffalo, his native diocese. Father Gahan remained in this parish until July 29, 1882.

The old frame church which was moved from its original site to the rear of the church property was used for six years as a separate school house. In 1878 it was destroyed by fire. Father Flannery at once undertook to build a brick school house on the church property to the east of the church. He made a house-to-house canvass of the Catholics and the Protestants of St. Thomas and collected \$1,000 for his new school house. It was opened on Jan. 25, 1879. The Sisters of St. Joseph were placed in charge of the school. Rev. Mother Ignatia, Sisters Bernard and Celestine came to St. Thomas early in January, 1879, and stayed at Mr. John Doyle's for three



Rt. Rev. F. P. McEvoy, D.D.

weeks until the school was ready for their accommodation. A part of the school building was fitted up as a convent. The school was blessed by Bishop Walsh on Feb. 8, 1879. Rev. Father Kilroy was present. The sisters who came were Mother Helena, Superior; Sister Mary Bernard, teacher in the senior department; Sister Celestine, in the junior department, and Sister Patricia, teacher of music.

The Rev. Edmond Hodgkinson was ordained Aug. 18, 1882, and sent to St. Thomas the following week.

The Easter collection in this year was \$202.25, and the Christmas collection \$245.

In 1883 the Rev. Father Flannery went to Ireland and during his absence was replaced by the Rev. Albert McKeon. On May 15, 1883, Father Flannery with the Bishop's consent sold sixty-six feet of frontage on Talbot street of the church property, west of the parochial residence, to John Addison for \$5,000. This money went toward paying the debt on the church, school and cemetery; also \$450 was sent to London to pay the levy of that amount on the parish for St. Peter's Cathedral. On Sept. 5, 1883, the contract for an addition to the separate school was let to William Redmond. The work was completed the following January. At a meeting of the parishioners held in the church the Second Sunday in Advent it was decided that St. Thomas alone should contribute \$1,000 a year for the parish priest's salary, and if the Christmas and Easter collection did not reach that amount, the deficiency should be deducted from the pew rentals. It was also decided that the Missions of Dunwich, Bismark and Port Stanley should contribute \$200 for the curate's salary. The Rev. Father McCrae was appointed curate on Jan. 17, 1884.

On Sunday, July 28, Bishop Walsh said mass at Fingal in the house of P. Kildea. After mass the Bishop, accompanied by Father Flannery, drove to Dunwich where Father McCrae had enlarged the church by the addition of an apse and vestry. After mass, which was said by Father McCrae, the Bishop blessed the church under the patronage of Saint Columkille.



Father Halligan and his Baseball Team, 1908

Bishop Walsh spent several summers at Port Stanley in a brick house which he bought of Colonel Bostwick. It was situated on a high hill or ridge and known as the Bishop's Hill. It commanded an excellent view of the lake and the village. The brick house is still standing.

On Nov. 1, 1884, Father Donald McCrae was appointed as parish priest to Parkhill. He was succeeded in St. Thomas by Father Philip Gnam.

In April, 1883, Father Flannery purchased land in West Lorne from Archibald Leitch for a new church. The work of erecting the church, which was under Father Gnam's direction, was begun in July, 1855, and in less than six months was completed. On Dec. 18 it was blessed by His Lordship Bishop Walsh. The total cost—site, church, and church furnishing, including vestments—was \$2,083. During the building of the church the Catholics subscribed \$900 and the Protestants \$300.

On Feb. 20, 1886, Rev. Hubert Traher arrived in St. Thomas to replace Rev. Father Gnam, who was sent to Wallaceburg to take charge of that parish.

On Feb. 21 of the same year Alvinston was added to St. Thomas. Alvinston church was built by the Rev. Father McGrath, who was its first pastor. He attended it from Bothwell.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was established here Jan. 7, 1887. Francis C. Flannery was president, Stephen Pocock and John King vice-president and Charles Regan treasurer.

On Jan. 11, 1887, the Rev. John Cook replaced the Rev. Father Traher. This year Bishop Walsh detached Dunwich and Bismarck (West Lorne) from St. Thomas. These places with Wardsville formed one parish. Alvinston was attached to Petrolea, and Tillsonburg to St. Thomas.

In 1888 the Rev. Father (now Monsignor) Aylward was appointed assistant instead of Father Cook, who was transferred to Dublin, Ont.

On Dec. 4, 1890, the Rev. Father Austin began duty here as a curate. He was succeeded in 1892 by the Rev. Father Quinlan.



Rt. Rev. M. F. Fallon, D.D.

On June 21, 1892, the Rev. Father Flannery was granted by the Georgetown University the title of D. D. for his "services in the cause of truth and in the defence of the Jesuits."

In April, 1894, the Rev. Father Quinlan was appointed the Parish Priest of West Lorne with Dunwich as a Mission.

In 1897 the present substantial convent in St. Thomas was built for the exclusive use of the teaching sisters.

The Rev. Father Flannery, after having spent twenty-eight years as parish priest of St. Thomas, was succeeded Sept. 8, 1898, by the Rev. Jos. Bayard. There was at that time a debt on the church of \$600 and on the convent \$1,700. As the late pastor had made no repairs on the church for some time, the Rev. Father Bayard spent \$400 for church repairs. His assistant was the Rev. Peter L'Heureux. By letter dated London, April 17, 1899, Father Bayard was appointed by the Rt. Rev. D. O'Connor, Administrator of the Diocese, "Sede Vacante," and held office until Aug. 6, 1900, when Bishop-elect F. Patrick McEvay took possession of the See, being consecrated on that day by Archbishop O'Connor, who had been transferred from the See of London to the Archiepiscopal See of Toronto. On the day of his consecration Bishop McEvoy appointed Father Bayard Vicar-General. In 1903, owing to ill health, the Vicar-General went to St. Joseph's Hospital, London, and remained there until his death. His assistant, the Rev. Father Stanley, in the meantime with much success looked after the temporal and spiritual welfare of the parish.

Sept. 10, 1903, the Rev. T. West took charge of the Parish of St. Thomas. The Rev. M. D. O'Neil was appointed his assistant.

The following is from the Separate School report: "In 1904 extensive improvements were made to the school building and at present it is quite modern in all its appointments. It contains five well-equipped teaching rooms, one assembly room, splendid wide corridors, lavatories on both floors, and has low pressure steam apparatus, and has proved by results one of the strongest Separate Schools in the Province."

In June, 1904, the Rev. Thos. Ferron was appointed assistant priest, replacing Father O'Neill, who was sent to Bothwell as parish priest. In 1905 the Rev. E. F. Goetz was appointed assistant priest. During the same year a residence was built for the caretaker of the cemetery.

In 1906 the present parochial residence was built on almost the same site as the old one.



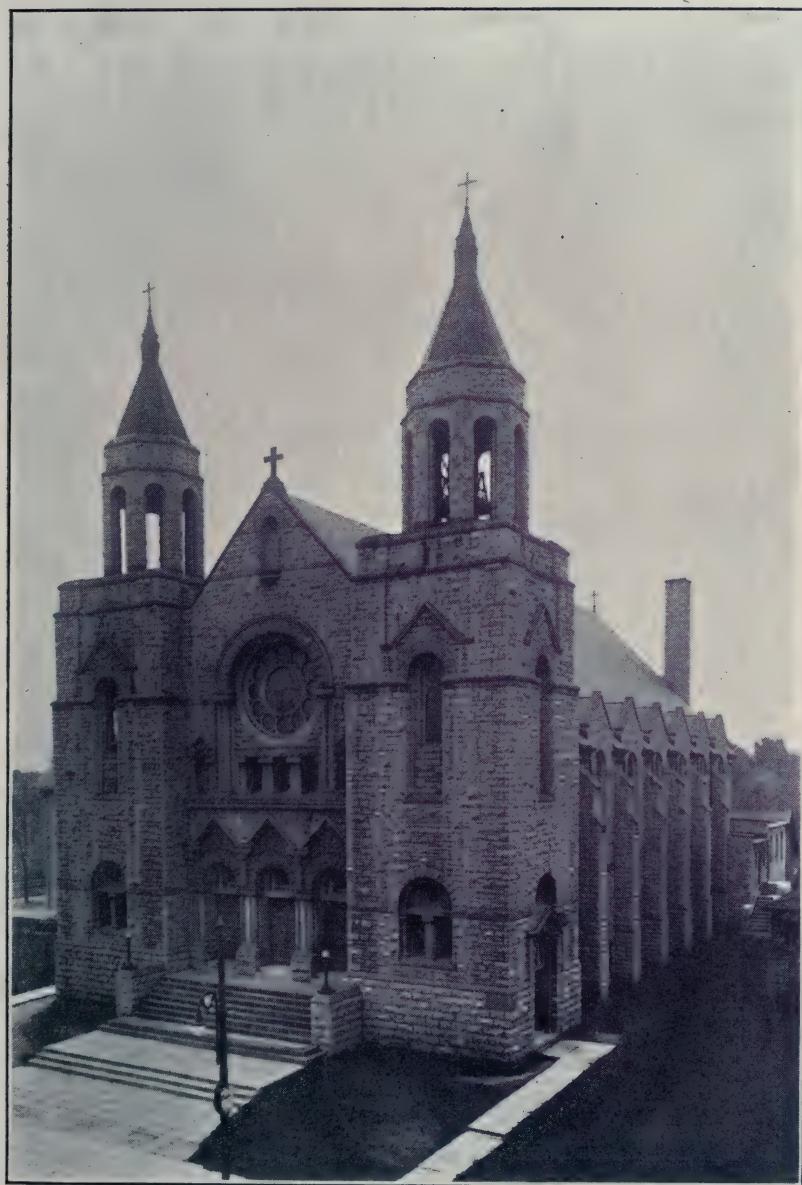
REV. (CAPT.) CORCORAN
Overseas Chaplain
Assistant at St. Thomas, 1913

The Rev. R. T. Halligan was appointed to St. Thomas in the year 1908, the Rev. John Hogan in 1909, the Rev. John F. Mahoney in 1911, the Rev. W. T. Corcoran in 1913, the Rev. A. E. Goodwin in 1914. In 1915 the Rev. W. J. Langlois succeeded the Rev. A. E. Goodwin, and the Rev. F. McCarty the Rev. P. Dunn.

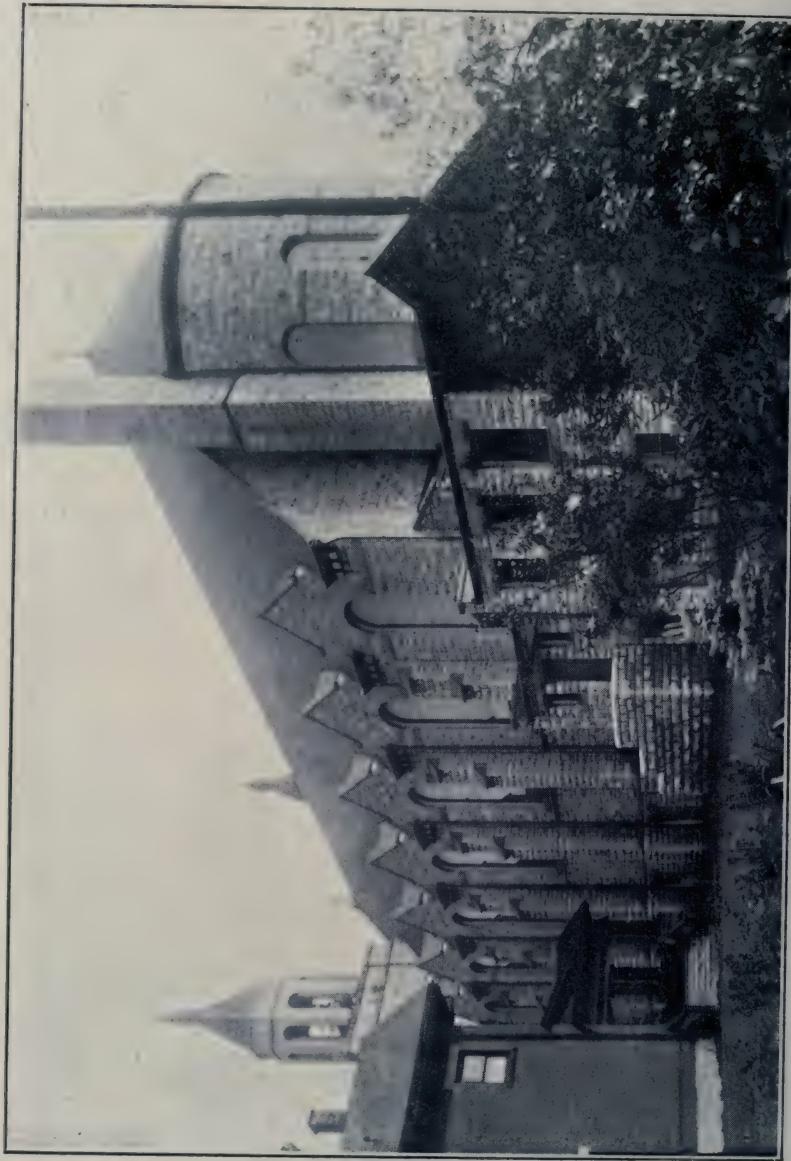
The cornerstone of new Holy Angels Church was laid and blessed by His Lordship Bishop Fallon, June 4, 1911. The last Sunday of February, 1912, 365 days after the old church had been vacated, the new church was occupied and blessed and dedicated by His Lordship Bishop Fallon. The church cost \$71,750.

St. Joseph's Church at Port Stanley was blessed Sunday, Sept. 8, 1912, by His Lordship Bishop Fallon. This church, faced with brick and capable of seating 300, was built at a cost of \$3,000. The land on which it stands was bought for \$1,100. The population of Port Stanley, 1921, was 797. The Catholic population is 15.

The brick church at Fingal is under the title and patronage of



Holy Angels' Church, erected 1911.



View of Church from rear lawn.



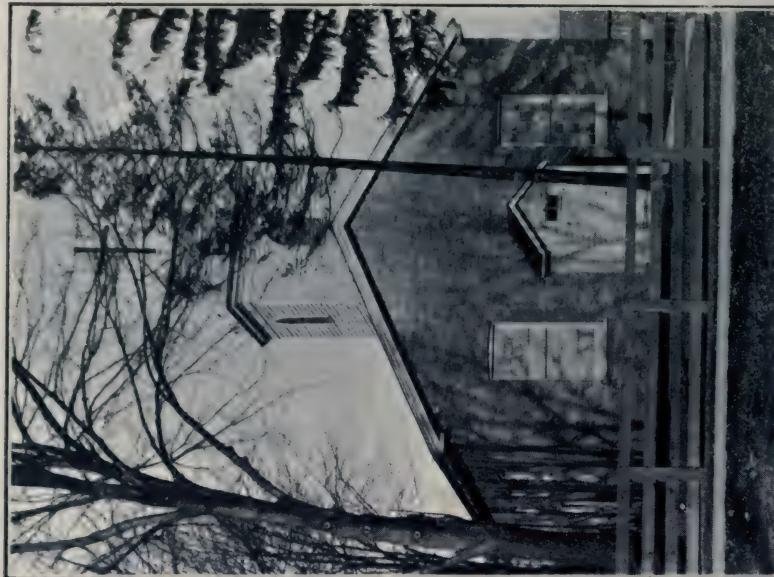
The Parochial residence, erected 1906.



The school play grounds at rear of Church, School and Convent.



Port Stanley Church, 1912



St. Paul's Church, Ringal, 1914



Aylmer Church, 1912

Saint Paul. It was the gift of Richard McCahill, a member of the parish living in Southwold Township. The church was furnished by the Fingal population and blessed Sept. 28, 1914, by His Lordship Bishop Fallon. The population of Fingal, 1921, was 240. The Catholic population was 8.

In 1912 in the town of Aylmer a frame residence on George street was purchased, a part of which was fitted up as a chapel. With the grounds it cost \$1,250. Mass is said in Aylmer every Sunday. This congregation has only twenty-seven members. The population of Aylmer, 1921, was 2,267. The Catholic population was about 25. The first Sunday on which mass was said in Aylmer was Jan. 18, 1901. Father Bayard, V. G., was the celebrant. There were forty-two persons present. A few years previously Mass was said occasionally on week days.

The priests officiating now, October 13, 1921, in the St. Thomas Parish are Rt. Rev. Monsignor West, Pastor; Rev. J. V. Tobin and Rev. T. M. Moran, Assistant Pastors. Rev. Father Tobin was appointed March 3, 1919; Father Moran June 28, 1919.

On Sundays Mass is said at St. Thomas at 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.; Aylmer 10.00 a.m.; Port Stanley, 10.00 a.m., and Fingal, the first sunday of every month at 11.00 a.m.

In the year 1910 Holy Angels Cemetery, situated to the south of the city, was properly surveyed, the lots being measured, staked and numbered. The walks and driveways were named after saints, with markers indicating the streets or entrance to each street. A blue print or map of the cemetery, giving the names of the streets, lots and their numbers and the owners of lots is kept at the parochial residence, and one also at the residence of the caretaker of the cemetery. The register of the cemetery is kept by the caretaker.



Separate School, 1912, awaiting arrival of Hon. Dr. Pyme, Minister of Education.

FIRST HOLY NAME PARADE IN ST. THOMAS

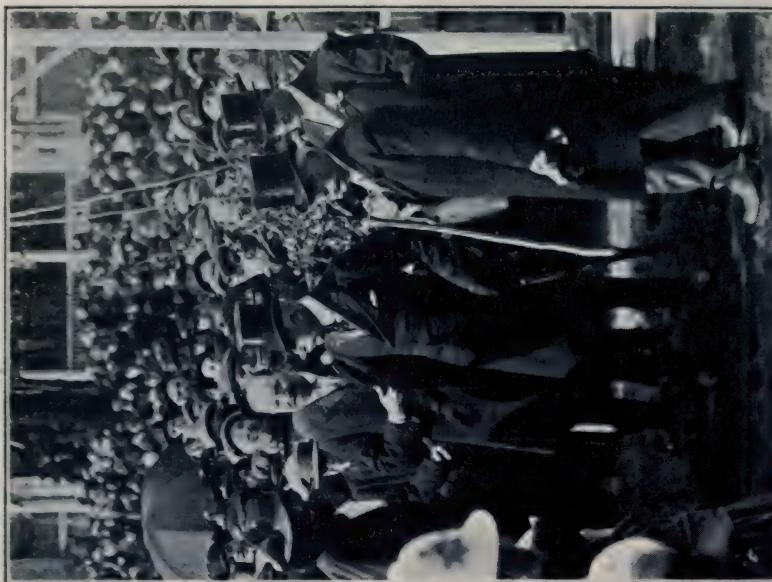
From the St. Thomas Times-Journal

IT is seldom, if ever, that the citizens of St. Thomas have had an opportunity of witnessing a more impressive and more significant religious demonstration than that which was in evidence here Sunday afternoon, June 12, 1921, when some 2,000 men and boys of this district of the London Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, all members of the Holy Name Society, attended the divine service in the Church of the Holy Angels, where they were addressed by His Lordship, Bishop Fallon of London. Each and every one of those men and boys who were present is a member of an organization that has for its fundamental purpose the keeping holy and sacred of the name of Jesus Christ, and each member renewed the Holy Name pledge that had admitted him to the society, Sunday afternoon.

His Lordship, in opening his inspiring sermon confessed that the impressiveness of the demonstration had robbed him of his original thoughts and left in their place something almost inexpressable. And to add to the greatness of the occasion, His Lordship pointed out similar demonstrations were being staged in 11 other centres at the very same hour.

The representation from London numbering more than 1,200 men and boys, were taken by special train on the London and Port Stanley Railway to a point opposite the armories where the order of parade was formed under the direction of James Lowry, marshal-in-chief, and John Farrell, president of the St. Thomas Holy Name Society.

Led by the 25th Regimental band of this city, the long line of members marched north on Wilson avenue and Elgin street to Talbot, thence to the church, the London members being headed by Martini's band; under the leadership of Mr. Venuto. The St. Thomas junior members were headed by the augmented Holy Angels' cadet corps and band.



Planting an Oak in the Court House, 1915. Dr. Bennett is standing to the right of Duke of Connaught, Governor General of Canada, and Mayor Johnson to the rear of Duke with bouquet in coat collar.



FRED GROVES, Captain of Holy Angel Cadets, killed in the Great War.
In 1915, the Duke of Connaught requested Captain Groves to convey his thanks to Father West on the excellent appearance of his Church Cadet Corps.

Rev. Father Gnam, of Aylmer, acted as deacon of honor to Bishop Fallon, and Rev. Father Brady, of St. Mary's church, London, sub-deacon.

The benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given by Monsignor West, assisted by Rev. Father Tierney, of St. Mary's church, London, who acted as deacon, and Rev. Father Feurth, of West Lorne, sub-deacon.

Rev. Father Moran, of St. Thomas, was master of ceremonies.

In addition to the large number of members from London, there were many from Port Stanley, West Lorne, Aylmer and several other places.

The Catholics ask for no privileges, but for the same rights granted by Catholics to the Protestant separate schools of the province of Quebec, was the substance of a resolution unanimously passed by the St. Thomas Holy Name Society, numbering 600 members, at a meeting held Sunday. The resolution, moved by E. P. Reath and seconded by J. A. Sullivan, was as follows:

"Whereas, under the British North America Act, which is the constitution of Canada, the educational rights in the matter of denominational schools of the Protestant minority in Lower Canada, and of the Roman Catholic minority in Upper Canada, were guaranteed by solemn compact; and

"Whereas, amongst these rights is the full development of the common school system and the equitable division of the school taxes of minorities and proportional distribution of all school grants; and

"Whereas, the school system of the Roman Catholic Minority of Ontario is deprived of the legal machinery necessary for its complete functioning; and

"Whereas the Catholic school system of Ontario does not receive its just and proper share of certain school taxes and school grants;

"Therefore, be it resolved that this meeting respectfully request the Government and the Legislature of Ontario to enact such legal measures as will put the Roman Catholic minority of this province in the full enjoyment of its educational rights under the constitution."



Holly Angels' Cadets and Bugle Band, 1917, with Capt. Barclay, Inspector; Capt. Beasley, Instructor, with Monsignor West and Father Langlois.

CATHOLIC SOLDIERS FAVOR A MEMORIAL

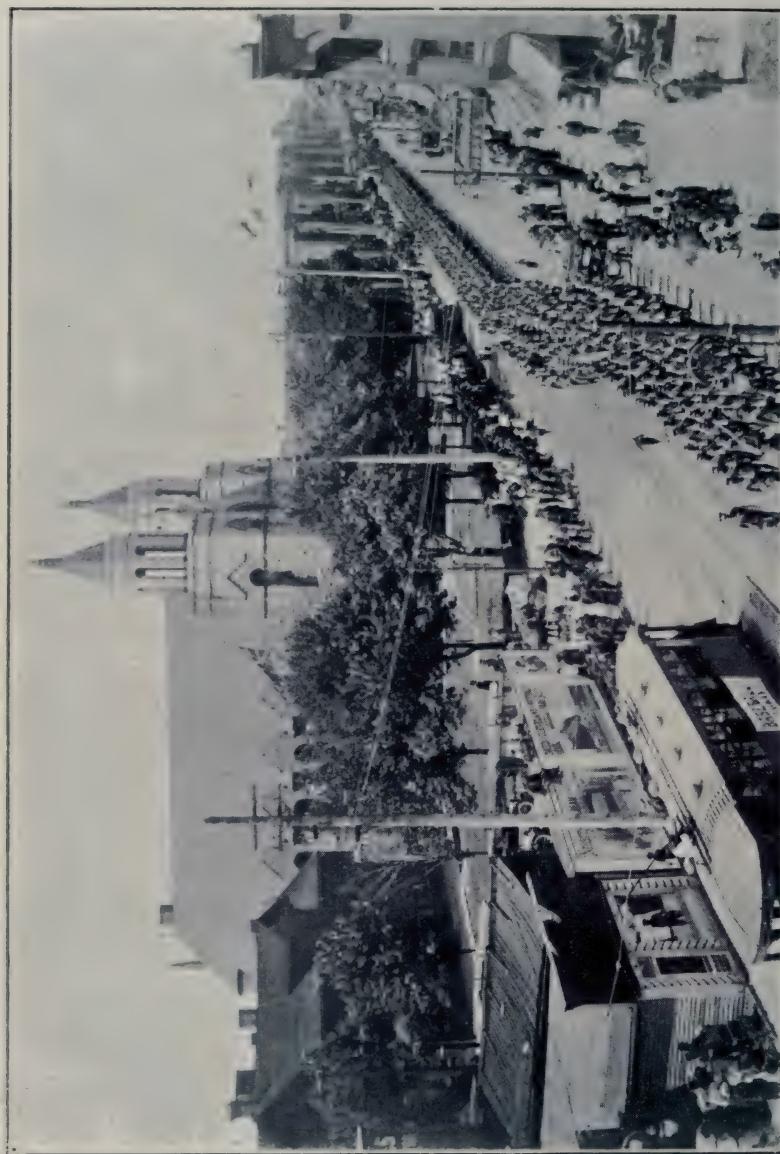
From the St. Thomas Times-Journal

A T a meeting of the representatives of the men's Catholic societies and of the Catholic returned soldiers, held in St. Thomas, the following resolution was passed: "That the Catholics are willing to subscribe for and to take part in the erection of a proper and creditable monument for the veterans of the late war, to be erected at the city hall or on public city property; that all the money collected for the erection of this monument shall be applied to it and to no other object whatever; that it is the duty of the different denominations to take care of their own dead."

The following statement was issued after the meeting: "At the close of the first year of the central recruiting office for the city of St. Thomas and Elgin county 1,425 men had enlisted. Of this number 121 were Roman Catholics. The Catholics of St. Thomas and Elgin county are not one in every twenty or twenty-five of the population, and yet, according to the official report, they contributed one man to every twelve men who enlisted. This is a good showing for their loyalty.

THE FIRST MASS AT PORT BRUCE

The first mass at Port Bruce was said on the feast of S. Birgitta, Oct. 8, 1921. The celebrant was Monsignor West. Hilsdon McManus served the Mass. This was a beautiful morning and the sun beamed brightly on the holy altar. Mass was offered in Abraham McGuigan's home, which is probably the oldest residence at Port Bruce. The following persons were present at Mass: Abraham McGuigan, Mrs. Abraham McGuigan, Eva Franklin, Orland B. Franklin, Walter Franklin Shingler and Mrs. Walter Franklin Shingler. The population of Port Bruce is about 50. The Catholic population is 8.



The 91st Elgin Regiment, passing Holy Angels' Church, June, 1916, shortly before they left for England.

SISTERS AND PRIESTS FROM THE PARISH OF ST. THOMAS

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

With the Year of Their Reception Into the Congregation

Sister M. Evangelist Regan, 1872; Sister M. Emerentia Regan, 1874; Sister M. Irene Redmond, 1886; Sister Angelica Kains, 1888; Sister M. Christina McShea, 1890; Sister Beatrice Coughlin, 1891; Sister M. Ethelbert Murray, 1893; Sister M. Pulcheria Bassford, 1899; Sister M. Austin Gurvine, 1904; Sister M. Clare Lordan, 1905; Sister M. Lourdes Lordan, 1909; Sister M. Emly Shanahan, 1918; Sister M. Emmanuel Dunn, 1914; Sister M. Gertrude Coughlin; Sister M. Clotilde Redmond.

SACRED HEART SISTERS

Madame Brady, daughter of Patrick Brady, was a sister of the Rev. J. M. Brady; Madame Brady, Daughter of James Brady; Madame Sophie Amyiot; Madame Burns, daughter of John Burns.

HOLY NAME SISTERS

Sister Agnes Nolan, of the Sacred Heart; Sister Rosalie Nolan.

PRECIOUS BLOOD SISTERS

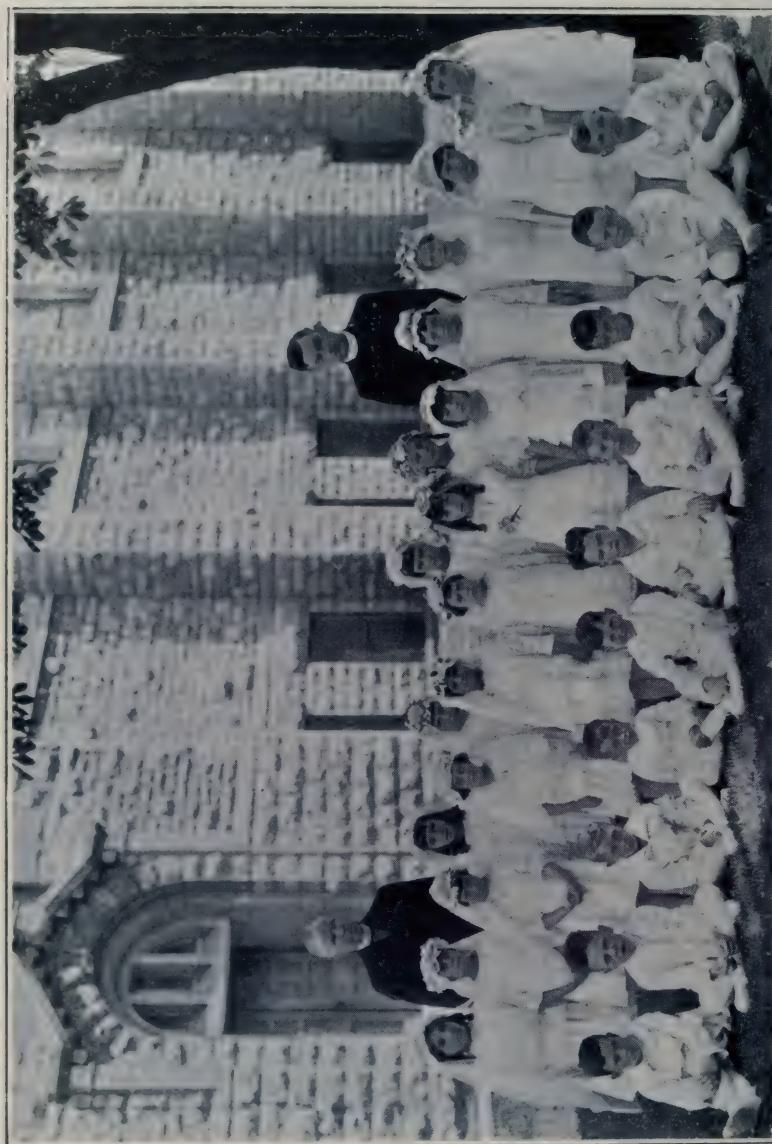
Sister Ann Fitzgibbons and Sister Mary Frances Connoy.

SISTERS OF CHARITY

Sister Vincent Murphy; Sister Loretto Murphy.

PRIESTS

Rev. Jas. E. Bobier; Father Cahill; Rev. M. J. Brady; Rev. Herman Pocock; Rev. Albert McNabb; Rev. Wilfred McNabb; Rev. L. W. Power.



Communion Class, 1921, with Monsignor West and Father Moran in rear of picture.



The house in which the first mass was said at Port Bruce, Oct. 8, 1921.

